

Pastel portraits of John and Jane Marshall by John Russell, 1802

**A case study in early Industrialist portrait patronage, and
commissioning contemporary responses**

Thursday 3 November 2016, 11.00 — 15.30

Chaired by Professor Ann Sumner, Head of Cultural Engagement, University of Leeds

Venue: Education Room, The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, University of Leeds, Parkinson Building, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9JT



Portraits of John and Jane Marshall by John Russell (1745—1806), pastel on paper laid on canvas, 1802, University of Leeds Art Collection

Programme

11.00—11.30 **Registration and light refreshments**

11.30—11.40 **Welcome from chairperson Prof Ann Sumner**

11.40—12.05 **Laura Millward, Collections Assistant, The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, University of Leeds. *Understanding British Portraits* Research Fellow 2016**

The Marshalls of Leeds

Laura presents her research into the pastel portraits of John and Jane Marshall by John Russell, 1802, which are part of the University of Leeds Art Collection. John Marshall was a successful Leeds industrialist whose wealth and status enabled him to support and found educational and cultural institutes in Leeds. Jane Marshall was a close friend of the author and poet Dorothy Wordsworth and their letters give a fascinating insight into their lives. The pastellist John Russell toured Yorkshire between 1790 and 1806 and produced other portraits of Leeds' wealthy middle classes, some of which are in local public collections.

12.05—12.30 **Dr David Thornton, local historian, Vice-President of the Thoresby Society, the Leeds Historical Society, and author of *Leeds: a Historical Dictionary of People, Places and Events* (2013), and *The Story of Leeds* (2013)**

The Leeds of John and Jane Marshall

The early years of nineteenth century Leeds was a turbulent, dramatic period when the people of the town enjoyed industrial expansion and cultural growth, bitterly experienced political upheaval and religious bigotry, and suffered economic distress and appalling destitution. It was against this background that John Marshall and his contemporaries reached the zenith of their power.

12.30—13.00 **Chaired discussion session with the morning's speakers**

13.00—14.20 **Lunch** provided for all speakers and delegates, and time to visit the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery and the Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery.

14.20—14.45 **Professor Ann Sumner**

Pastellist John Russell and his Yorkshire patrons

This presentation will consider Russell's artistic techniques and practice, his portrait production in London, and work in Leeds for the Marshalls and other local patrons.

14.45—15.30 **Chaired panel discussion—contemporary creative responses to John Russell's portraits**

Prof Sumner chairs this discussion with three artists who have been commissioned by the University to produce creative responses to the Russell portraits. They are **Sarah-Joy Ford**, textile artist; **Malika Booker**, poet and Douglas Caster Cultural Fellow at the University; and **Alex De Little**, sound artist. The discussion will consider the specific artists' approaches to the commission, their new creative work, and the broader question of museum collections initiating creative engagement with contemporary artists.

15.30 **Close**

Please see booking form for details of how to apply



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**